

Health Chapter Meeting

Notes from January 31, 2013

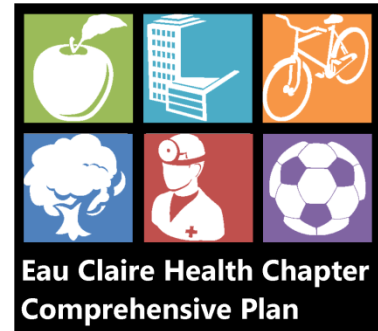
I. Meeting Overview

Darryl Tufte:

- Welcomed attendees and introduced the meeting's objective.

Ned Noel:

- Stated the chapter's purpose statement and gave "health" and "built-environment" definitions.
- Recapped the process so far.
- Listed all the sources used to help form policies.
- Explained proposed "policies" are means to guide the City to consider a whole host of solutions in response to the issues identified. Depending on the policy, this could range from education, research, incentives, partnerships, to local ordinances.
- Went through each policy item by item. (Committee's comments are noted below under each particular section of the chapter.)



Darryl Tufte:

- Asked small groups to list their top 5 to 10 policy priorities for future implementation (see below.)
- Described the rest of the process with Plan Commission and City Council review.
- Noted the committee will be given public notice when both bodies consider action on the chapter.

II. Committee's Comments on Proposed Policies

Active Living Section

- Concern over pedestrian safety at street crossings was raised.
- Concern over that Rod and Gun Park needs to be improved soon.
- Concern that policies do not cover mental health well enough.
- Point made about being broad then very specific in the policies pertaining to parks.
- Question was brought up about the time horizon/duration of the chapter.
- Point made about looking to partner with other organizations in achieving physical fitness.
- Concern was raised about funding possible policies; example of park and recreational programs.
- Point made to reference in the workplace wellness policy to include the work that others are doing such as Mayo Clinic - Eau Claire and Sacred Heart Hospital.
- Point made to make sure all age-groups and demographics are covered in the chapter.
- Point made about similar policies dealing with walking and to possibly group some together (policies 2, 4, 6, 9, 10).
- Support was expressed for including a safe routes to school master plan.
- Point was made that safe routes to parks should help to encourage play spontaneity in children (i.e. free-range kids concept).
- Point made that both safe route systems (schools & parks) should have intentional color-coded signage to make routes obvious to users.

Food & Nutrition Section

- Point made to move the Food Systems Plan policy to the beginning of the section.
- Point made to cross-reference lactation room support also in the worksite wellness policy.

- Explanation was made regarding food systems planning. It means from the growing, processing, distribution, marketing, consumption to dealing with food waste.
- Concern was expressed about also considering buffet-style restaurants under the policy to study fast food density.
- Point was made that restaurants should label food/meal calories more on their menus.
- A member expressed to not focus on studying fast food density, but rather focus on farm-to-school programs to make a larger more immediate impact on the community's population; and to also focus on creating a food hub.
- Point was made to add language about the token program at the farmer's market which helps provide low-income residents with better access to fresh and healthy foods. Expand in the farmer's market policy to increase marketing of the program and to sustain it.
- Under the Farm to Urban Consumer policy, point was made to list UW-Extension on educating healthy eating at all elementary schools and to offer kids-garden programs.
- Point was made that policies do not cover mental health and some policies could address it.

Land Use Section

- Point made to make the language in the health impact assessment policy stronger in terms of mitigation for proposals that would cause human harm.
- Point made to add infill lot redevelopment language into the affordable housing policy since these neighborhoods are usually more walkable.
- Concern was expressed to add energy efficiency upgrade language/or devise an incentives program as part the basic building code policy; include rentals since tenants are usually paying the utility bills.

Safety & Crime Section

- Concern was expressed for more enforcement on street speeding and not yielding to pedestrians who have the right of way. Rudolph Rd. at E. Lexington Blvd. was cited as an example.
- Suggestion was made to change using the word evil twice in the active-threats policy.
- Comment was made to include "eyes on the street" and neighborhood-watch references.
- Point made about including emergency call-kiosks/security cameras along certain unsafe trails for the trail lighting policy.
- Comments were raised about needing closer collaboration between Federal, State and Local authorities planning for active-threat situations. Possibly Healthy Communities Council could take a lead locally or that more education material is given out to public and private entities (i.e. teachers/students should not prop open school back doors).
- Comment was made on considering a conceal-carry policy in the chapter.
- Comment was made about mowing the right of way on Clairemont Avenue and that the State and City should work closer together on community roadway maintenance.

Drug Use Section

- A suggestion was made to reconsider using the word drug in the title of the section.
- Point was made to possibly add more prescription drug drop-off locations in the community.

Environmental Exposures Section

- Point made to provide water quality signage at key access points along the city's water resources.
- Point made that the City could take a stronger leadership role in helping "responsible parties" clean up their polluted lands to further economic development (i.e. local governments are more eligible to receive grants that could help private property owners redevelopment their site).

III. Committee's Priorities

The committee ranked the proposed policies they believed should be addressed soonest in the chapter's implementation section. If the policy is listed below it was thought important. If there is a (1) behind the policy item, it means there were two in favor, and so forth.

Active Living Section

- 1.2 Current Plans & Goals (1)
- 1.4 A Walkable Connected Community (4)
 - This should cover Policies 1.9, 1.10 & 3.2
- 1.5 Bike Access
- 1.6 Non-residential Sidewalks
- 1.7 Livable Streets
- 1.9 Safe Routes (3)
- 1.11 Audit for Unsafe Areas
- 1.12 Active Lifestyles (1)
- 1.13 Obesity Mapping
- 1.14 Workplace Wellness
- 1.16 Critical Partnerships
- Plan for connectivity – combine Policies 1.4, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 1.12, 4.3 & 3.2b
- Combine Policies 1.9 & 1.10 – safe routes to schools and parks

Food & Nutrition Section

- 2.1 Community Gardens (2)
- 2.3 & 2.6 – Promoting local food business (3)
- 2.4 Farm-to-Urban Consumer (1)
- 2.6 Urban Agriculture
- 2.7 Food Hub (5)
- 2.8 Community Food Systems Plan (1)
- Combine Policies 2.1, 2.2 & 2.3 into one

Land Use Section

- 3.1 Sustainable Growth (1)
- 3.2 Health Impact Assessments (4)
- 3.2a Complete Streets (2)
- 3.5 Transit Development Plan
- 3.7 Housing Deficiencies (2)
- 3.8 Healthy Buildings
- 3.9 Affordable Housing (1)
- Combine Policies 3.7 & 3.8 into one
- Combine Policies 3.4 & 3.5 into one
- New policy: Grant Hazardous Wastes

Safety & Crime Section

- 4.1 CPTED Review
- 4.3 Dangerous Streets & Intersections (3)
 - State Street
- 4.4 Trail Lighting
 - and other rec sites

Drug Use Section

- 5.1 Alcohol “Substance” Abuse (2)
 - Prescription drugs
- 5.2 Safe Rides
- 5.3 Tobacco-free Parks
- 5.4 Tobacco-free Multi-family Dwellings (3)

Environmental Exposures Section

- 6.2 Climate Change
- 6.3 Air Quality (1)
- 6.4 Contaminated Lands & Water (3)
- 6.5 Heavy Industrial Impacts
- 6.6 Noise Issues
- 6.7 Railroad Quiet Zones (1)